

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 TRSE-00 MC-02 CU-02 EB-07 COME-00 /073 R

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APPROVED BY NEA/AFN:MWILEY

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R 312210Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181197

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY

SUBJECT: FOLLOWING UP ETC.

REF: A. TRIPOLI 852 B. STATE 179372

1. CONCUR EMBASSY PROPOSAL THAT MFA BE GIVEN COPY AND ARABIC TRANSLATION OF SUMMARY OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON'S STATEMENT TO LIBYAN CHARGE EL-GAYED ON JULY 24.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF WRITTEN SUMMARY IN ENGLISH WHICH DEPARTMENT PROVIDED TO EL-GAYED ON JULY 25.

3. QUOTE: SUMMARY OF REMARKS BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE ATHERTON TO MR. ALI EL-GAYED, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, EMBASSY OF LIBYA, JULY 24, 1975.

4. MR. ATHERTON SAID WE FELT IT WAS TIME TO HAVE ANOTHER TALK SINCE WE OWE THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT ANSWERS TO THEIR PROPOSALS AND, IN ANY CASE, WANT TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE. WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT OUR RELATIONS WILL IMPROVE, BUT  
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THE BASIC PROBLEM OF LIBYA'S POLICY TOWARD THE U.S. AND

TOWARD OUR PEACE EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST REMAINS AS IT WAS WHEN MR. SISCO MET WITH MR. EL-GAYED LAST JANUARY. ALTHOUGH WE SHALL HAVE TO KEEP LIBYA'S PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION, WE DO NOT WANT TO CLOSE THE DOOR TO A FUTURE IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS. WITHOUT THIS FUNDAMENTAL POLICY DIFFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST, OUR BILATERAL PROBLEMS WOULD BE MANAGEABLE.

5. MR. ATHERTON MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) THE U.S. WELCOMES CONTINUED ACTIVE RELATIONS IN THE CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS AS REFLECTED IN THE LARGE NUMBER OF LIBYAN STUDENTS IN THE U.S. AND IN OUR COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP.

(B) WE FULLY RECIPROCATE LIBYA'S DESIRE FOR BETTER OFFICIAL RELATIONS.

(C) WE DO NOT ASK OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO AGREE WITH ALL OF OUR POLICIES AS A CONDITION OF HAVING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THEM. THERE ARE MANY COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE HAVE IMPORTANT TIES ALTHOUGH WE MAY DISAGREE WITH THEM ON POLICY.

(D) IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE BETTER RELATIONS THERE MUST BE A COMMON FRAME WORK FOR DIALOGUE. OUR PROBLEM IS NOT THAT LIBYA DISAGREES WITH OUR POLICY BUT THAT IT ACTIVELY CRITICIZES AND OPPOSES OUR POLICY AND OPPOSES OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHO ARE COOPERATING WITH THE U.S.

(E) IN OUR SYSTEM, PUBLIC POLICY MUST BE ACCEPTABLE TO PUBLIC OPINION AND CONGRESS. WE CANNOT TAKE CERTAIN MEASURES IN THE ABSENCE OF A CONDUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE. WHEN WE SEE SIGNS FROM THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT OF A BETTER ATMOSPHERE, PERHAPS WE CAN ADVANCE ON ITS SPECIFIC PROPOSALS.

6. IN REPLY TO MR. EL-GAYED'S QUESTION ON HOW HE VIEWS LIBYAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, MR. ATHERTON REPLIED THAT THEY CONFIDENTIAL

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DO NOT HAVE MUCH SUBSTANCE. THERE MUST BE A BASIS FOR SUBSTANCE AND AS LONG AS LIBYA'S POLICY IS TO ACTIVELY OPPOSE AND SEEK TO UNDERMINE OUR EFFORTS TOWARD A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE FRAMEWORK FOR A RELATIONSHIP OF SUBSTANCE WILL NOT BE PRESENT. MR. ATHERTON ASSERTED THAT THE U.S. IS NOT APPLYING PRESSURE ON LIBYA, AND WE DO NOT WANT TO CONVEY THE IDEA THAT LIBYA DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO PURSUE ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS AS IT

SEES THEM. HOWEVER, LIBYAN INTERESTS APPEAR TO BE IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS AS WE PERCEIVE THEM.

7. ASKED IF HE COULD GIVE ANY ASSURANCES THAT THE C-130'S MIGHT BE RELEASED SOON, MR. ATHERTON REPLIED THAT OUR POSITION ON THE ISSUE REMAINS UNCHANGED SINCE IT IS PART OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM. IF THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE, IT COULD AFFECT THE QUESTION OF THE C-130'S. LOCKHEED WAS WARNED WHEN THE SALES CONTRACT WAS FIRST DISCUSSED THAT WE COULD NOT ASSURE THE APPROVAL OF EXPORT LICENSES. WHEN EXPORT OF THE FIRST EIGHT PLANES WAS AUTHORIZED, THE SITUATION WAS QUITE DIFFERENT. U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THIS QUESTION IS MADE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND NO CHANGE IS CURRENTLY IN SIGHT. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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